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Contents

Agenda item 84: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Agenda item 82: Effects of atomic radiation (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 84: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (A/55/13, 329, 391, 402, 425, 428 and 456, A/55/490-S/2000/993)

1. **Mr. Hansen** (Commissioner-General, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)), introducing his report (A/55/13), observed that the sudden, tragic violence of the past month showed graphically that there had been no solution to the Palestine question, at the heart of which lay the Palestine refugees whom UNRWA had been serving for 50 years. The current crisis had at the same time demonstrated the unique contribution that the United Nations could make to the search for peace, and highlighted its fundamental humanitarian role in a highly charged political atmosphere.

2. In the midst of the crisis, the Agency was seeking to keep its schools open and provide its usual services — not least the emergency medical facilities and the clinics — with the help of its exceptionally brave and devoted Palestinian staff in Gaza and the West Bank. The Palestinians in the territories were adjusting with foreboding to the new disruption and danger: half of the 112 Palestinians killed thus far had been UNRWA-registered refugees.

3. The Agency's social and economic support to the refugees over the past half century had been a key factor in regional stability, and adequate services continued to be vital. His report on the Agency's annual activities through June 2000 highlighted the impressive achievements of the refugees themselves in many fields. Graduates of UNRWA schools habitually scored higher than their local peers in school examinations; refugee health standards, despite the wretched camp conditions, were among the best in the region; the network of community-based organizations formed the basis of civil society in the entire Palestinian community.

4. However, resources were not keeping pace with growing needs. In the field of education, for instance, the boom in entry-level pupils — over 10,000 each year in Gaza alone — had created a pressing need for new teachers and facilities, as had the language teaching newly introduced into the Jordanian primary school curriculum and secondary schools to be opened for refugee children in northern Lebanon. In addition, demographic growth was straining the Agency's health, relief and social service programmes. UNRWA health centres, particularly, were coming under increasing pressure.

5. The Agency's financial situation was a crucial issue. The financial stringency under which it had to operate left little room to meet the predictable rise in demands, not to mention the unexpected demands. At the end of 1999, the Agency's cash flow situation had become so critical that only an advance payment by the largest donor country had enabled it to meet the most essential goals, including the payroll. In 2000, against what had been widely welcomed as a minimum budget, UNRWA expected to incur a 10 per cent budget deficit, and faced the immediate prospect of a $40 million cash shortfall by the end of the month, due in large part to the unpredictable working of the currency markets. With enough donor countries stepping into the breach, the Agency might be able to scrape by.

6. UNRWA had led a hand-to-mouth existence for much too long. It was maintaining high vacancy rates, delaying recruitment, halving international staff, and introducing long-term budgetary and financial management reforms. Yet the demands on its resources were driven by other factors that had little to do with leanness and efficiency, primarily the five per cent refugee population growth and the inflation in the region. After years of underfunding, which, unfortunately, meant a decline in the quality of services at a time of great anxiety, UNRWA needed an annual growth in resources commensurate with the growth in the size of the community it was mandated to serve. It was constantly devising new ways of persuading major donors to contribute more and of widening the donor base; and indeed, since 1995, most major donors had steadily increased their contributions. The refugees took that as an encouraging sign that they were not forgotten, and that the Agency's demise was not imminent, but found it hard to accept the basic structural problem. All donors should return to the 1995 target of a five per cent net annual increase in contributions.

7. In the near future, the comparator countries — Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic — would be introducing across-the-board salary increases for government employees, and the Agency's inability to keep pace would have a very severe effect on the morale of its staff, whose salary levels were already the

lowest — they earned less than half — among the United Nations agencies operating in the region.

8. The Agency's ambition now was to achieve a breakthrough — paralleling the breakthrough in literacy levels 50 years earlier — in giving the refugee community full access to advances in international communications technology and making it self-reliant in a modern global economy. UNRWA also planned to extend the self-sustaining microfinancing and micro-enterprise programme, which had recently been awarded recognition as the best poverty alleviation programme in the world, beyond Gaza and the West Bank to Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon, in order to make the refugees in all the countries employable and self-supporting.

9. There had been some improvement in the problem of outstanding reimbursements due to UNRWA: the Palestinian Authority had finally begun to repay a small portion of the urgently needed $19 million in VAT reimbursements which it owed. Disputed issues of sovereignty over port facilities between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, however, had stalled the reimbursement to UNRWA of over $4 million in port and related charges.

10. Agency staff were suffering from the many restrictions imposed by Israel, as set out in the report (chap. IV.A), on their movement within, between and out of Gaza and the West Bank, compounded by closures of the two territories. The restrictions had become tighter in recent weeks, and new rules on the entry of cargo had caused expense and delays in supplying essential goods for the Agency's operations. Discussions of such disruptions with the highest Israeli security authorities had not led to any relaxation of the restrictions.

11. He paid a tribute to the selfless courage and dedication of UNRWA staff — 99 per cent of them Palestinian — who were performing their humanitarian work in the midst of the strife, exposing themselves to danger. UNRWA had taken the lead in launching an emergency appeal for assistance to meet the immediate medical and other needs that had arisen as a result of the current crisis. What was unique to UNRWA was its deep involvement with the daily lives of the refugees. The central elements of that organic link were the thousands of skilled UNRWA teachers, doctors, social workers, technicians and others who were very influential in their communities, and also the presence everywhere of the physical facilities serving the refugee community.

12. **Mr. Brattskar** (Norway), Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, introduced the report of the Working Group (A/55/456). He stressed its concern at the Agency's financial situation, which had been exacerbated by exchange rate fluctuations. The Agency faced the prospect of not being able to meet its operating costs in 2000, including payroll obligations later in the year. Although donors had once again responded generously to appeals for the funding of the regular and project budgets, UNRWA had appealed to donors to pay their pledged contributions earlier in the calendar or budget years and to ensure payment of pledges on time in order to ensure a reliable, sustainable flow of funds. The new budget format adopted for the 2000-2001 biennium had been well received by major donors and it was hoped that the new approach aimed at enhancing the budget's usefulness as a planning, management and fund-raising tool, would result in increased donor resources being made available. As yet, however, that had unfortunately not proven to be the case.

13. After eight years of austerity measures, the quality of services provided by the Agency had eroded and he stressed the responsibility of the international community to ensure that those services remained at acceptable levels. Progress had been made towards eliminating the structural deficit problem, in particular through the use of contract teachers, reductions in international staffing and other reforms and the Commissioner-General and his staff were continuing their tireless efforts to maintain basic operations despite resource constraints. He commended the Commissioner-General for his fund-raising efforts and his commitment to keeping major donors and the host authorities informed and involved. The effects of many years of austerity on the Agency's humanitarian operations were nevertheless alarming, in particular in the areas of education and health, and further cuts could cause severe additional social and economic hardship and place an increased burden on the host authorities.

14. The refugee problem was deeply rooted in the political context and a lasting solution must be achieved in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. The refugees' everyday problems, however, were of a humanitarian nature and were the

shared responsibility of the international community. The services provided by UNRWA were the minimum required to enable the refugees to lead decent human lives; further cuts would deny the refugees services to which they were entitled and destabilize the entire region. The international support embodied in the resolutions adopted each year by the General Assembly must therefore be translated into measures to provide the Agency with a secure financial basis. To that end, he urged Governments, in particular those which had traditionally shown special interest in the Palestinian refugees, to either begin to support the Agency, or increase their support, and to make payments in a timely manner. Governments should also consider making special contributions to cover the deficit and build up working capital to maintain existing services and restore services cut as a result of austerity measures and to ensure that donor support of emergency-related and special programmes did not affect contributions to the Agency's regular programmes.

15. **Ms. Abdelhady Nasser** (Observer for Palestine) said that the Palestine refugees had a natural and inherent right to their homes and properties; the General Assembly had affirmed that right in paragraph 11 of resolution 194 (III), and in numerous subsequent resolutions. Israel's intransigent denial of the rights of the Palestine refugees and of its responsibilities in that regard could not diminish their inalienable and individual right to return to their homes and properties and to compensation for those who chose not to return. At the same time, the displaced Palestinians had a right to return to the territory occupied by Israel since 1967; that right, affirmed in Security Council resolution 237 (1967), had not been fulfilled owing to Israeli lack of compliance. A third principle was that the right of the Palestine refugees to return to their homes and properties was distinct from the right of all Palestinians to Palestinian nationality and their right to become citizens of the Palestinian State in the future.

16. For over five decades, UNRWA had played a pivotal role in addressing the plight of the Palestine refugees; it had clearly helped to stave off the further deterioration of the socio-economic situation of the refugees, and was continuing to play a crucial role. As described in the report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA (A/55/13), the socio-economic conditions and overall situation of the Palestine refugees remained difficult in the Agency's five fields of operation.

17. The volatility and instability of the region had intensified, particularly in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, because of violent and aggressive Israeli practices and the Israeli freeze of the peace process. As a result, the suffering of the Palestinian people, had greatly increased. The situation in and around the camps was particularly tense and unstable. The Palestinian people, including children, who were being killed and injured as a result of the occupying army's excessive and indiscriminate use of force against civilians included many refugees registered with UNRWA.

18. Israeli practices and measures over the past four weeks had undermined the ability of UNRWA to carry out its work. Roadblocks and the closure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory had isolated Palestinian cities and villages from the outside world and from each other. UNRWA must be allowed to carry out its mandate, not only in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but also in its other three fields of operation, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Its services were essential for alleviating the hardships of the Palestine refugees, especially as the situation on the ground continued to decline.

19. The recurrent and deep financial problems of UNRWA continued to be of great concern. It was very unfair to the refugees, as well as to the staff of UNRWA, that the financial situation was the primary determinant of the Agency's ability to provide its services and fulfil its mandate. Furthermore, those financial difficulties were understood by many to reflect a decline in the international community's commitment to the refugee issue. The international community must not allow the refugees to feel that they were being abandoned; she reaffirmed the responsibility of the United Nations in general, and UNRWA in particular, towards the Palestine refugees until a just and comprehensive solution was reached.

20. Her delegation proposed the revitalization of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine (UNCCP), established by General Assembly resolution 194 (III). UNCCP was requested every year to exert efforts towards the implementation of paragraph 11 of that resolution, and its records had been modernized with the help and financial support of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Commissioner-General was encouraged to undertake a similar modernization of the UNRWA archive.

21. She expressed appreciation to the Commissioner-General and staff of UNRWA, and to the host Governments, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. The host Governments were encouraged to continue cooperation with UNRWA, as were other United Nations agencies. All donors should continue contributing to UNRWA and increase their contributions, if possible. In addition, the donor based should be expanded. All delegations should back their financial contributions with political support for the Palestine refugees and the just resolution of their plight.

22. **Mr. Almutawa'a** (United Arab Emirates) said it was appalling that the suffering of the Palestine refugees at the hands of their Israeli oppressors continued more than half a century after their forcible expulsion from their homeland. The problem of the refugees was an integral part of the Palestine issue as a whole, and any just and lasting resolution of that issue must include the right of the refugees to return to their homes or receive compensation, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions.

23. Pending such a solution, UNRWA was doing admirable work to ease the plight of the refugees, both inside and outside the occupied territories, and must be given the resources it needed to carry out its mission. Donor States and financial institutions such as the World Bank should increase their support for the Agency. Above all, however, the international community in general, and the United Nations and its specialized agencies in particular, should strive for a just, lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestine issue.

24. **Mr. Zaki** (Egypt) said that no one could have predicted, when the Agency had been established in 1950, that it would still be at work half a century later. But the Palestine refugees, expelled from their homeland with the utmost cruelty in 1947 and 1948, had become the largest and most long-standing refugee community in the world.

25. Those refugees had certain inalienable rights, notably the right to return to their homes or receive compensation, as had been stated in many General Assembly resolutions, beginning with resolution 194 (III). A just and lasting settlement of the Palestine issue must be based on that resolution.

26. In the meantime, UNRWA was playing an essential role in providing the Palestine refugees with essential services. Unfortunately, it was hampered in its efforts not only by the current extremely difficult political circumstances, but also by a critical shortage of financial resources, as the Commissioner-General's report and the report of the Working Group on the funding of UNRWA both made clear. While the Agency was using its slender resources with the utmost efficiency, cuts to its services and activities had inevitably occurred. International solidarity was essential to reverse that regrettable situation.

27. But greater support for UNRWA was no more than an interim measure; the international community should press Israel, which was to blame for the plight of the refugees, to assume its responsibilities and comply with the relevant United Nations resolutions. Currently, far from doing so, Israel was harrying the refugees in their camps with massive military force and engaging in aggressive and provocative practices, apparently under the impression that it was thereby enhancing its security, when it was actually presenting the international community with an intolerable challenge.

28. His delegation continued to have full confidence in UNRWA's efficiency and dedication to its mission of alleviating the living conditions of the Palestine refugees. It was to be hoped that donors would increase their support for the Agency, until such time as a just and lasting settlement to the issue of the refugees could be found.

29. **Mr. Bigot** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, and the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, said that the European Union appreciated the work carried out by UNRWA and its Commissioner-General, and thanked the host Governments — Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic — for their continuous support to the Palestine refugees for more than 50 years; those Governments, especially Lebanon, had often paid a very high price for welcoming and sheltering the refugees. UNRWA had done much to prevent a worsening of the living conditions of the refugees and to improve social stability in the region. For many years, it had bravely performed its task, and had not only provided essential services, but also equipped and managed infrastructure, operated an income-generation programme, and was carrying out a wide range of projects under the Peace Implementation Programme and the Lebanon Appeal.

30. The European Union shared the concern of the Commissioner-General about the financial situation of UNRWA, and hoped that the financial pledges of donors would help the Agency solve those difficulties. It called on all States, and in particular States of the Middle East with a high per capita gross domestic product, to increase their contributions. The European Union was the largest voluntary donor to UNRWA, with an annual contribution of over US$ 100 million, and also the largest supplier of food aid, with a contribution worth about US$ 10 million.

31. The European Union encouraged the Commissioner-General and his team to continue their efforts to ensure greater transparency and cost-effectiveness, without prejudice to the level and quality of the services provided to the refugees. It welcomed the consultative process conducted by the Agency with host Governments, the Palestinian Authority and donors on management reform, and looked forward to the evaluation of the reforms announced by the Commissioner-General. The European Union was pleased that UNRWA had already made a considerable restructuring effort. The new format of the budget contributed to greater budgetary transparency, but at the same time revealed even more clearly the deficits which donors were called upon to reduce.

32. The question of Palestine refugees could not be dealt with from a purely budgetary or administrative point of view. It was a painful human problem which affected millions of Palestinians who had certainly not chosen to live, some since 1948, others since 1967, in refugee camps, often without elementary political, economic and social rights. The human dimension must always be taken into account in the deliberations. Peace could not be achieved to the detriment of the refugees or host Governments. The refugees must be treated in an equitable manner, in accordance with international law. General Assembly resolution 194 (III) stressed the right of return and the right to compensation for the losses suffered; those were the principles on which progress should be based. In that regard, the European Union expressed appreciation for the work accomplished under the auspices of UNCCP, including the computerization of the register of land ownership. Until a comprehensive, lasting and just peace was achieved, based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), UNRWA would have to carry on with its mandate, with the necessary resources at its disposal.

33. Despite the tragic events of the past few weeks, the discussions had to be resumed, and calm restored. The decisive progress achieved during the Camp David summit could not be forgotten. The European Union remained committed to the peace process; there was no other choice. It was prepared to play its full part, including by remaining the largest donor to UNRWA.

34. **Mr. Al-Hussein** (Jordan) said that the Agency's work in providing the Palestine refugees with health services, education services, occupational training and social services was invaluable. The fact that it had been able to maintain those services in straitened financial circumstances and in an extremely critical political situation was highly creditable.

35. A solution to the refugee problem, based on the relevant General Assembly resolutions, notably resolution 194 (III), was the key to a just and lasting peace and to stability in the Middle East. The Israel-Jordan peace treaty provided that that problem should be settled in accordance with international law, and under international law the refugees had the right either to return or to receive compensation.

36. In the absence of such a settlement, however, the continuing problem of the refugees had thrown a disproportionately heavy burden upon Jordan: when UNRWA was compelled to cut back its services, the Jordanian social services had to take up the slack. In 1999, in fact, the Jordanian Government had spent over five times as much as UNRWA on services to the Palestine refugees. Accordingly, it was essential for the international community to increase its support for the Agency, to enable it to fulfil its mandate adequately. In that connection, the Commissioner-General was to be commended for his efforts to broaden the Agency's donor base.

37. **Mr. Dausá Céspedes** (Cuba) said that the recent violence in the occupied territories, provoked by those in Israel who opposed peace, had added to the suffering of the Palestinian people and further delayed any resolution of the Palestine refugee question. In that context, the work of UNRWA in improving the refugees' lot, despite the difficult political context and its lack of resources, was all the more important. He therefore deplored the fact that the Agency had ended 1999 with a deficit, had no reserves and would face a new liquidity crisis in November 2000.

38. He supported the Agency's call for new resources to meet the needs of Palestine refugees both directly

through its own programmes and in support of services provided by the host countries. He expressed concern at restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and regretted that the viability study on the establishment of the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" had not been completed.

39. The international community, in particular the developed countries, had an obligation to support UNRWA. His Government would maintain its support, despite its own economic difficulties and would continue to invite young Palestinians to study in Cuba. Given the current difficult political context in the Middle East and the still unresolved Palestine refugee question, he stressed that UNRWA's humanitarian role would remain a fundamental factor in promoting stability and providing a safety net for a vulnerable population.

40. **Mr. Brattskar** (Norway) stressed that the current atmosphere of hostility posed a serious threat to the prospect of a lasting peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict and was not conducive to positive social and economic development in the Palestinian territory or to solution of the refugee problem. He feared that the refugee population would become even more disillusioned by a further deterioration of their living conditions. It was all the more central therefore that UNRWA, as the embodiment of the international community's humanitarian obligation and political commitment towards Palestine refugees, continue its work to improve their daily lives. Although repeated funding shortfalls and the erosion in services caused by austerity measures remained a source of concern, he welcomed initiatives aimed at increasing transparency and improving management, as well as regular reporting to and consultations with donors and host authorities, which demonstrated the Agency's determination to deal with its current difficult financial situation.

41. It was vital for the refugees and the host countries, as well as for the peace process, that the international community provide UNRWA with the resources needed to fulfil its mandate and maintain the level and quality of services. His Government would continue to be one of the major contributors to the Agency and, in recognition of its need for financial predictability, disbursed 70 per cent of that contribution early in the fiscal year, with the remaining 30 per cent disbursed in mid-summer, all of which was directed to the General Fund. He encouraged other donors to honour their pledges and once again appealed for an expansion of the donor base in keeping with the international community's shared responsibility to enable the Agency to carry out the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly.

42. **Mr. Wang** Donghua (China) expressed concern at the deterioration of the situation in Jerusalem and the occupied territories, and its effect on the peace process. Both sides must show restraint, refrain from words or actions which hindered the peace process and adopt a practical and flexible attitude towards resolution of the Palestine question in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

43. He paid a tribute to the staff of UNRWA who, despite decreased contributions and increasingly difficult circumstances, continued to labour to meet the needs of the Palestine refugees. The Agency had a unique and essential role to play in promoting stability and supporting the peace process but its financial difficulties were affecting its ability to fulfil its mandate. He took note of and welcomed the Agency's efforts to reform its management mechanisms, which should improve its ability to serve Palestine refugees. The international community, however, also had an obligation to support the work of the Agency and help it overcome its current financial difficulty. In that context, he stressed that his Government had always supported the peace process and provided assistance to the Palestine people, both through UNRWA and bilaterally and, within the limits of its abilities, would continue to do so.

44. **Mr. Otaka** (Japan) said that the situation in the Middle East was at a critical stage, deplored the continued violence and condemned all acts of provocation and the excessive use of force. All parties should do their utmost to put an end to the violence and immediately implement the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement. In that context, he noted the contribution made by UNRWA, the only international organization providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, to improving the economic and social conditions of Palestine refugees, thereby contributing to regional stability and keeping intact the foundations of the peace process, and urged the international community to support the Agency.

45. His Government, as a major donor, attached great importance to the Agency's activities and, despite its

own financial difficulties, was determined to continue its assistance and support the Middle East peace process. He welcomed the Agency's continued efforts to improve its financial situation. In particular, the new budgetary format separating the regular budget from the projects budget, would make it possible to analyse the cost effectiveness of projects, establish priorities, allocate limited funds more effectively, better manage the Agency's finances and improve transparency in the regular budget process. The new format should be implemented as soon as possible, at headquarters as well as in local offices, so that UNRWA could continue to play a vital role in the region.

46. **Mr. Tekaya** (Tunisia) expressed admiration for the work of the Agency, which had contributed in no small measure to alleviating the suffering of the Palestine refugees over the years. He also thanked the host countries for their hospitality towards the refugees, and the donor countries for their support for UNRWA. It was essential that the Agency should be able to continue its work until such time as the refugees were able to exercise their inalienable rights in the context of a just and comprehensive settlement. Accordingly, it was distressing that critical financial problems were constraining its ability to deliver services. He urged the international community to continue and, insofar as possible, increase its support for UNRWA, thereby enhancing the Palestine refugees' quality of life.

47. Political conditions in the Middle East had recently deteriorated sharply, with the result that tension had increased, peace negotiations had broken down, violence was rampant and the Al-Aqsa Mosque had been desecrated. Such situations must inevitably arise as long as the underlying issue, namely Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, was not addressed. That issue was political and required a political solution, one that would be applied in a context of international legitimacy. The refugees, who had been expelled from their homes and their native land, were a basic factor that must be included in any just and lasting settlement; they must be allowed to exercise their inalienable right to return or else receive compensation, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

48. Tunisia had always supported UNRWA and would continue to do so; it did good and necessary work. At the same time, the international community must develop a comprehensive settlement that would bring lasting stability and security to the Middle East.

49. **Mr. Obadi** (Yemen) noted that the current situation in the Middle East, with its tension and violence, was not only having an adverse impact on the lives of the Palestine refugees, but was constraining the region's development and progress. The massacres and atrocities being perpetrated by Israel clearly violated the rights of the Palestinian people, to say nothing of the accords that had led to the peace process, the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of civilians in time of war, Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

50. His delegation appreciated the importance of the role played by UNRWA in delivering services that were vital to the health, education and social welfare of the Palestine refugees. The Agency's work must continue. At the same time, the Palestinian people must be allowed to exercise its legitimate national rights, including the right to establish an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital. The international community had a moral and human duty to compel Israel to comply with the United Nations resolutions acknowledging the refugees' right to return to the country from which they had been expelled or else to receive compensation. Israel should also be compelled to work for a genuine peace, instead of adopting practices that appeared to be expressly designed to undermine the peace process and destabilize the region.

51. Until a just and lasting peace could be achieved, however, all donors should increase their contributions to UNRWA, so that it could reverse the cuts to its services and expand its budget to meet the growing needs of the refugees.

Agenda item 82: Effects of atomic radiation (*continued*) (A/C.4/55/5; A/C.4/55/L.6/Rev.1 and L.7/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.6/Rev.1

52. **Ms. Kronhöffer** (Sweden), introducing draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.6/Rev.1, said that the revised text of the draft resolution incorporated changes in the second preambular paragraph and in paragraphs 2 and 4, and added a new paragraph 9.

53. **Mr. Akopov** (Belarus), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Belarus and Ukraine, said that, since the major thrust of the amendments proposed by those delegations in document A/C.4/55/L.7/Rev.1 had been incorporated in draft resolution A/C.4/55/L.6/Rev.1, those delegations wished to withdraw their amendments.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.